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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, in whose keeping are the destinies of galaxies, here at this altar of supplication we lift our hearts to You. Today, crown the deliberations of our lawmakers with civility and respect as well as passionate sympathy for humanity. Facing great questions and issues, quicken in our Senators every noble impulse, transforming each task into a throne of service. Take away any desire to put off until tomorrow the things they should accomplish today. Lord, make them brave and steadfast until right becomes victorious might. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 24, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator

from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4872, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act. Rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day. The vote-a-rama, as it has become known, will begin sometime this afternoon.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3158

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that S. 3158 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3158) to require Congress to lead by example and freeze its own pay and fully offset the cost of the extension of unemployment benefits and other Federal aid.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4872, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4872) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to Title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, S. Con. Res. 13.

Pending:

Gregg-Coburn modified amendment No. 3567, to prevent Medicare from being used for new entitlements and to use Medicare savings to save Medicare.

McCain amendment No. 3570, to eliminate the sweetheart deals for Tennessee, Hawaii, Louisiana, Montana, Connecticut, and frontier States.

Crapo motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance, with instructions.

Enzi motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance, with instructions.

Barrasso amendment No. 3582, to ensure that Americans can keep the coverage they have by keeping premiums affordable.

Grassley-Roberts amendment No. 3564, to make sure the President, Cabinet members, all White House senior staff and congressional committee and leadership staff are purchasing health insurance through the health insurance exchanges established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, would the Chair report how much time is left on general debate on the bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority has 7 hours 32 minutes and the minority has 8 hours 30 minutes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time remaining on the bill on the majority's side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader has that right. The time is yielded back.

The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to temporarily

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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